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ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION
Department of
Agriculture

ORIGINAL

George H. Ryan, Governor

Division of Natural Resources

State Fairgrounds • P.O. Box 19281 • Springfield, IL 62794-9281 • 217/785-4233 • Voice/TDD 217/785-2427 • Fax 217/524-4882

December 20, 2002

Chief Clerk
Illinois Commerce Commission
527 East Capitol Avenue
Springfield, Illinois 62701

Re: Commonwealth Edison
Docket Number 02-0838

Dear Sir:

The Commonwealth Edison Company (ComEd) notified the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDA) of its filing with the Illinois Commerce Commission for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to construct, operate, and maintain a new 138 kV electric transmission line along Randall Road in Kane County, Illinois. The IDA has examined the proposed project per the IDA-Illinois Commerce Commission Cooperative Working Agreement on the protection of Illinois farmland.

In a telephone conversation with Mr. Ronald Dyslin of ComEd, the IDA learned that almost all of the 15± mile project will be located along railroads and highway right-of-way on existing ComEd easements. Where new construction occurs on farmland, the agricultural impacts will be very minor. What little farmland will be impacted is in a suburban setting and does not appear to be farmland that is viable for long-term agricultural use.

The IDA would have no objection to Commission's issuance of a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity on the project. We would consider such an action as being consistent with the Commission's Agricultural Land Preservation Policy and with the intent of the state's Farmland Preservation Act.

If you have questions regarding our comments or review of this petition filing, please feel free to contact Steve Frank of my staff at 217-785-4292.

Sincerely,

Warren D. Goetsch, P.E.
Administrator, Division of Natural Resources

WG:JH

cc: Ronald Dyslin, ComEd
Steve Frank, IDA
Mark Willobee, Kane-DuPage County SWCD

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